

Serial No. 10/080,982 - Johnston
Art Unit: 3652 – Docket 1266.015
Response to Office Action dated April 7, 2004
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REMARKS

- The cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest:
 - three *vertical* booms
 - the booms of the Russian patent that are supported on rail 10 extend at an angle.
 - three booms independently movable along the ground
 - the booms of the Russian and French patents are supported on rails, not the ground, and are not supported independently of one another.;
 - steering the crane by rotating basis about a vertical axis
 - the Russian and French patents are very specific to rail mounted gantries that cannot be cured. They teach away from replacing the wheels with steer able wheels that roll along the ground rather than on rails. Even if one were to do so, there would then be no need to make the beams extendible to accommodate different track gauges
 - any of the method steps whereby the spacing between booms is altered to straddle a load.

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